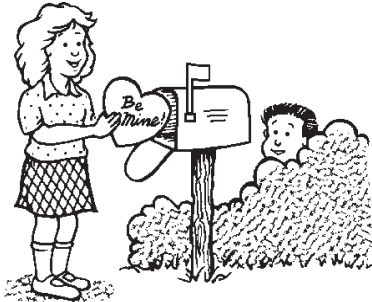




COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

February 2014



FEBRUARY

Worship Plans

Sunday, February 2 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, February 9 10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, February 16 10:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, February 23 10:00 a.m.

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

1 Corinthians 3:10-23

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

From the Pastor

February is the shortest month. It's Black History Month. It holds Valentine's Day. Lent sometimes begins in February, but Ash Wednesday isn't until the first week of March this year. So February is a particular gift: ordinary time.

Ordinary time in the church calendar comes from the Latin word "ordinal," which means numbered (not plain). There are never more than nine weeks in ordinary time between Christmas and Lent. This year there are seven. Winter's Ordinary Time asks us to pause after the rush of Christmas and before the march of Lent to abide for a spell in the grace of the day-to-day.

This time of year always finds me quoting G.K. Chesterton: "The moment we are rooted in a place, the world vanishes. We live like a tree with the whole strength of the universe." There's an echo there of the affirmation in Psalm 1 that the righteous "are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper."

May February be for you and for CPC a breath, a moment to feel again our rootedness in this place, in this faith, with this community, planted by streams of living waters.

Jazz Sunday March 2

Sunday March 2 will be Jazz Sunday at Claremont Presbyterian Church. We will once again welcome CPC member and Jazz Band leader extraordinaire Chet Jaeger and his Night Blooming Jazzmen. The band will lead our worship music, including a special jazz arrangement for our choir's anthem.

Join us for a great way to bring in MardiGras/Shrove Tuesday as we prepare for the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 5. It is a good Sunday to invite friends to worship with you.

Come ready to clap your hands!

Adult Education

Sunday Morning at Nine Adult Education classes and forums meet at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday. In addition, there is an Adult Bible Study which meets Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Continuing from January:

The Epistle of James, taught by Dr. Jim Brashler in Room 1 - February 2, 9

This five-week series of classes on the book of James will focus on the relationship between faith and practice in the complex and rapidly changing world of early Christianity and in our world today. Expertise in Bible study is not necessary for this class—only a willingness to read and think carefully. Some people have suggested that we can hear the voice of Jesus more clearly in this epistle than in the Gospels or the letters of Paul. Come and see what you think.

February 16 - TBD

February 23: Charles Kerchner - Income Inequality in America - Room 1

March 2: Gordon Douglass - Income Inequality in America - Room 1

Faith and TED, led by Krista Wuertz in Room 7 - February 2, 9, 16, 23 and March 2

If you've ever watched a TED talk video, you know how much inspiration can come from 18 minutes. TED stands for Technology, Education, and Design, and even if you've never seen a TED talk you'll certainly find something challenging here, as Krista will curate a series of excerpts from widely-discussed talks in order to explore how their insights intersect with our Christian faith.

February 2: Karen Armstrong: My wish: The Charter for Compassion

February 9: Reverend James Forbes: Compassion at the Dinner Table

February 16: Rabbi Jackie Tabick: The Balancing Act of Compassion

February 23: Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf: Lose your Ego, Find your Compassion

March 2: Joan Halifax: Compassion and the True Meaning of Empathy

Sunday Evening Bible Study - Room 1

This weekly Bible Study, currently studying the book of 1 Corinthians, is led by Pastor Karen Sapio, Sunday evenings in Room 1 at 7:00 p.m. Newcomers are always welcome.



From Geri DeMasi

I wanted to convey my heartfelt appreciation to my wonderful friends in the CPC community for the innumerable expressions of support that I have received since my mom's passing. I have been absolutely overwhelmed by your kind thoughts, cards, prayers and many other acts of kindness, which have been a great blessing and comfort to me. At such a time I am truly grateful for my CPC family. Thank you again, and God bless you.

~Geri

Book Review February 8

Elaine Walker's review of *Someone* by Alice McDermott will be Saturday, February 8 in the Fellowship Hall of Claremont Presbyterian Church. The luncheon will begin at 11:00 a.m., earlier than usual, and table reservations must be made by calling the church office at 909-624-9693. Each table has a prearranged hostess, but reservations are honored wherever there is space.

Nancy Rice will be welcoming you with Irish melodies on the piano, Lenore Brashler is offering technical assistance on the laptop, Tracy Doebler is coordinating the Irish menu with the caterer, Gayle Jensen, and Barbara Patch, Pat Beswick, Kathy Croughan, Marj Stoddard and Elsie Harber will assist as usual as Presbyterian Women for the 14th year feature Elaine's riveting review!

Sunday Morning for Children and Youth

Sunday Mornings there are faith-nurturing activities for children in pre-school through high school all morning long.

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Music and Movement for grade 2 – grade 5
Godly Play for age 4 – grade 1
Youth 6th - 8th grade Sunday School Class
Youth 9th - 12th grade Sunday School Class
Nursery care is available for infants through pre-k

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Music and Movement for age 4 – grade 1 (after Time with the Children)
Godly Play for grade 2 – grade 5 (after Time with the Children)
Nursery care is available for infants through pre-k

Family Ministry - Let's Camp at CPC!

For some of us, memories of going away to church camp as children, youth, and even as adults are some of our fondest memories. The time to experience fun, fellowship, relaxation and to enjoy singing, playing and hanging together is precious time.

Let's have that camp experience without leaving Claremont! Come to CPC on the evening of February 16 to roast marshmallows, sing camp songs, play board games and just relax and enjoy a camp-like time with other friends and families from CPC. We will gather in Angell Courtyard to have an evening filled with camp fun from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Please join us, and bring a friend!

Make Every Second Monday a Fiesta

The second Monday of each month the Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center has a fundraiser at the El Rancho Restaurant on Foothill Boulevard in Claremont. **On Monday, February 10 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.** eat at El Rancho Restaurant and tell them you are with the Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center.

The center will receive a portion of the proceeds and you will enjoy a delicious Mexican meal. If you prefer to eat at home you may get your food to go. Thank you for your support!

Souper Bowl of Caring - February 2

On the day when football's last two teams square off for ultimate victory, CPC will join with churches and community groups all over the country to defeat hunger. By bringing with you to church that Sunday extra dollar bills to drop into the large soup kettles that CPC youth will be managing, you can be part of that Super cause. All of the money collected at CPC's Souper Bowl of Caring goes directly to the Beta Center food pantry in Pomona to provide food for hungry people.

Godly Play

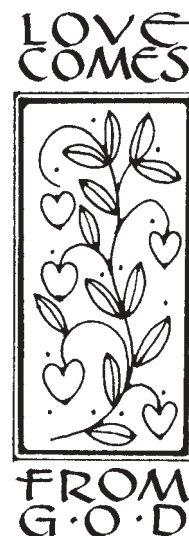
In February we are bringing together the teachings of Jesus with thoughts about the Trinity and our experience of the sacrament of communion. In our first lesson of the month, we connect the story of the Good Shepherd with the experience of World Communion. This lesson is being taught on February 2. On February 9 and 16 we are focusing on parables, and we are finishing the month by inviting the children to explore thinking about the Trinity.

Session Digest

At its November meeting, the Session:

- Approved the minutes of the Fall Congregational meeting
- Learned that Bill Brinegar will continue as Moderator of the Deacons
- Endorsed Emma Randles as a Young Adult Volunteer of the PCUSA
- Spent time discussing the Advent theme of favorite Christmas movies
- Planned the December session as a potluck supper at Pilgrim Place
- Approved Sharron Bentley for the Board of the Children's Center

~Steve Sittig
Clerk of Session



People in the Church: Tom Duggan

On the day his father died Tom Duggan was 18 and graduating from high school. In addition to the loss of his father Tom experienced two significant wounds at that time, and they had a profound impact on his future. The first was the difficulty his family had sharing their emotions and grief. “My mother came home from the hospital and went straight to her room, leaving it to an uncle to break the unexpected news to my brother and me.” Tom found consolation and understanding less in his family than in the pastors and chaplains that he knew.

One of the most important things they taught him, Tom said, was that “you could live by hope.” That experience pushed him in the direction of a career in the ministry and away from what had been assumed, that Tom would become a lawyer like his father. Later, as a student at Princeton, Tom took from the experience of the chaplain, a man who during WW II had been imprisoned by the Japanese and forced to build a railway in Burma, the lessons that there will be a future, and that we need to help others.

The second wound occurred when Tom and his brother accompanied an uncle to the local funeral home to select a casket. The uncle made the selection without ever consulting them. That experience seared into Tom the importance of respecting young people and involving them in life’s events and decisions. He is delighted to see CPC emphasizing this in worship and leadership.

Tom chuckled as he told me a story dear to him. In Bangkok, during the 1990’s, he became the pastor of the International Church. The church was progressive in its commitment to inclusivity and social change. One day Tom proposed to the worship committee that the kindergartners collect the offering the following Sunday.

“Kindergartners! They’ve never done that!” one man cried.

“I think they can,” Tom quietly replied.

“But,” worried another, sporting a look of horror, “what if one of them drops an offering plate and cash and checks spill all over the floor?”

“Then I guess,” Tom firmly replied, “that an adult will get down on their hands and knees and pick it all up.” He paused to let the image sink in. “Or we’ll just leave it until the service is over.”

That Sunday the kindergartners, with great delight and a wonderful sense of importance, collected the offering. Everybody loved it.

Tom grew up in New York, attended Princeton University and Yale Divinity School, charting his course to become a church pastor. Just as he was about to graduate, a classmate told him about a Presbyterian Teaching Abroad program. Intrigued, Tom applied, and soon found himself in Thailand. There he met Gail, also in the program, and the two were married three years later. “Thailand changed both of us,” Tom said. The experience convinced Tom that his true calling was pastor rather than teacher. Back in the United States, he pastored churches

in Connecticut; Hayward, California; and Flagstaff. The Hayward experience especially, he said, “opened my eyes.” Tom became involved in college ministry at a time of great ecumenism. He recalled accepting an invitation from a local Catholic priest to speak to a group of students. “We will also have Communion,” the priest told him.

“That’s ok, I’ll just sit off to the side,” said Tom, knowing full well that the Catholic Church forbade the participation of non-Catholics in the Communion Service.

“Oh no,” replied the priest. “The students won’t have it. In fact, we would like you to consecrate the bread.”

So....after some protest, “I consecrated the bread.”

Although Tom and Gail are happily retired and living in Pilgrim Place, one can easily imagine the new Pope contemplating requesting his services.

After several years in Hayward, Tom moved on to another university town, Flagstaff, Arizona, where he became the pastor of a joint Methodist-Presbyterian congregation. These continual moves alarmed a member of Tom’s home church in New York, who advised him, “If you don’t settle down in someplace you’ll never amount to anything.”

Power, ambition, status – were all packed into the man’s cautionary words. But by that time Tom had clearly accepted a different set of values: to go where he felt God was leading, to help create a community of love and service, and to live into hope. “I always had the sense,” Tom acknowledged, “that God was present, leading me forward, in my life and my decision-making.” Those values and the trust that accompanied them were encapsulated in a story Tom told about vacation plans his family would make while living in Europe. Friends would ask, aghast, “What! You have NO reservations???”

But, thinking again of Pope Francis, what if God can take humble people and put them in places of significance? At General Assembly in the mid-70’s, Tom noticed that the American Protestant Church of the Hague (Holland) was seeking a pastor. Because Gail had Dutch relatives living in Holland and because the chance to live abroad again appealed to Tom, he submitted an application. Three wonderful and fulfilling years in Holland were the result. Yet in retrospect those years became the prelude to fourteen years as the pastor of the American Church in Paris. As Tom told me this story he had a look on his face that said, “You never quite know what God is going to do next, do you?”

When Tom was finishing work on his Doctor of Ministry degree at Princeton, one of his advisors asked Tom if he might submit Tom’s name to be a candidate for the position at ACP. “Always before,” Tom explained to me, “the Senior Pastor at ACP had been a very prestigious pastor nearing the end of his career.” This time the selection committee decided to choose a youthful pastor who could reach out to the younger element of their changing congregation. It was a decision both courageous and foolhardy, since this new pastor would also

(see **Tom** on Page 5)

Tom (cont. from page 4)

need to coordinate some 30 organizations that were part of the church's community outreach. Of course Tom performed well, but the task led him to every possible advisor, asking, "Help! How do I do this?"

The American Church in Paris was a remarkable experience. Located along the Seine River in the heart of Paris, it had long been an outpost of American expatriates, diplomats and the business community. By the 1980's it had become one of the most diverse congregations to be found anywhere. Dealing with so many different cultures and expectations posed a great challenge. Tom found himself frequently saying, "How can we help each other?"

Tom recalled one situation that illustrated both the perils of cultural diversity and his concern that the church treat people as equals in the eyes of God. The Africans who attended church somehow all ended up sitting in the balcony. How could Tom preach against apartheid in South Africa, as he did, when his own church appeared segregated? Talking with one of the African men one day, Tom revealed his discomfort. The man chuckled. "You don't understand," he patiently explained. "In our culture it's ok to arrive late to church as long as you are there in time for the sermon. We go to the balcony so we won't disturb the service. But I understand your concern. I will ask some of our people to arrive on time and sit downstairs."

Language offered a different challenge. Surrounded by French culture and society, the ACP operated nevertheless in the English language. Eventually Tom's son liked to joke that "my father has five languages that he can NOT speak!"

"I hope," Tom remarked, eyes twinkling, "that English is not one of the five."

But language can be a stumbling block, and in the 1980's the French were notorious for demanding that everyone speak their language. After 14 years at ACP, Tom felt ready for a change. "Where would you like to go next?" he asked Gail. "I'll only go," she emphatically replied, "to a place where I can speak the language!"

And so for the final six years before retiring to Pilgrim Place, the Duggans returned to Thailand. Tom pastored a church in Bangkok, helped in a prison ministry, a counseling service, and a project for women weavers who for the first time in their lives sold their weavings commercially and gained some income.

Many members of CPC will recall that Tom

and Bob Jacoby jointly shared the responsibilities of Interim Pastor for two years as the Pastor Nominating Committee sought a new pastor. In fact the two were so highly appreciated that many congregation members, only half-humorously, urged the PNC to take its time, don't rush, be patient. What was expected to take one year stretched into two, and the only people who complained were the exhausted and frustrated members of the PNC. Meanwhile Tom and Bob became somewhat famous for their occasional joint sermons featuring Lucifer and Mephistopheles, patterned on Screwtape and Wormwood, creatures made popular by C.S. Lewis. During those years "I always felt the strong support of the people," Tom affirmed, "including all the staff."

The feeling certainly was mutual. Bob Jacoby said what many others would echo: "It was a sheer joy to work with somebody so congenial, so refreshing, so lively and full of ideas. Tom is such a gift to the church."

Amen.

~Dick Johnson

"Like" Us on Facebook

Look for the Claremont Presbyterian Church page on facebook and click on "like" to begin receiving news feeds about what is happening at CPC. Be sure to share it with your friends!

Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 12/31/13	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$490,416	\$510,000
Other Income	94,372	98,100
Bequests/Gifts	1,500	0
Reserve Transfer	0	0
Expenses	(611,529)	(634,188)
VARIANCE	(25,238)	(26,088)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 12/31/13	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$ 706,716	\$ 677,758
Expenses	(714,762)	(676,478)
VARIANCE	(8,046)	1,280

A more complete financial report is available in the church office.



The *Communicator* is published monthly (except in summer) by Claremont Presbyterian Church. Submissions are subject to editing for content and length. To submit an article or item for the monthly calendar, please contact the church office by the 15th of the month by telephone at (909) 624-9693, email jcolclough@claremontpres.org or fax to (909) 624-4743.

Editor: Jo Colclough

Pastors

Karen Sapio
Rocky Supinger

Church School

9:00 a.m.
(Except in Summer)

Worship

10:00 a.m.

Nursery Care
available both hours

Agenda for a Prophetic Faith

March 9, 16, 23, 30 and May 4, 2014



Lecture 1: Sister Simone Campbell, Leader, Nuns on the Bus & Director, NETWORK (National Catholic Social Justice Lobby)

Economic Justice for All—A Moral Imperative

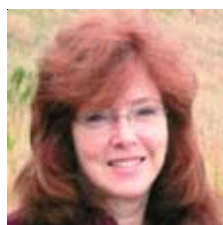
Sunday, March 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church,
724 E. Bonita Ave., San Dimas, CA 91773



Lecture 2: Dr. Andrew Guzman, Jackson H. Ralston Professor of Law, Boalt Law School, University of California-Berkeley

Overheated: the Human Cost of Climate Change

Sunday, March 16, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
LaVerne Church of the Brethren,
2425 "E" Street, LaVerne, CA 91750



Lecture 3: Ellen Brown, Public Banking Institute, author, *Web of Debt*

Banking for the People—Not for Wall Street

Sunday, March 23, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.
Claremont United Methodist Church,
211 W. Foothill Blvd., Claremont, CA 91711



Lecture 4: The Rev. Dr. Art Cribbs, Executive Director, Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE-CA)

A Living Wage, Unions and the Faith Community

Sunday, March 30, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Claremont United Church of Christ (UCC),
233 W. Harrison St., Claremont, CA 91711



Lecture 5: Dr. Richard Parker, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

Inequality—Or a Revival of Community?

Sunday, May 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Claremont Presbyterian Church,
1111 Mountain Ave., Claremont, CA 91711

Agenda FOR A
Prophetic
Faith
*It's even worse
Than it looks,
But there is
a way Forward*

•A project of Progressive Christians Uniting (PCU)

•Series ticket for all five lectures \$40

Individual tickets \$12

Low-income, student and scholarship tickets available

•More information: JForney170@aol.com

•Website: agendaforapropheticfaith.info

A prophet "...is a person who knows what time it is."

—Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

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Return Service Requested

Deadline for next issue of the *Communicator*: February 15

Pledge Envelopes for 2014

If you submitted a pledge to CPC for 2014 and indicated that you would be paying weekly, monthly or quarterly, pledge envelopes have been printed for you. Please pick them up in the Narthex.

If you indicated that you would be paying annually but would like envelopes, please contact Jo Colclough at (909) 624-9693.

Website Photos

Photographs are often taken at church events. These photos may be posted on the church's public website. If you object to having a photograph that may contain your image (or your child's image) posted on the church website, please notify the office in writing.

Annual Meeting February 2

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held Sunday, February 2, 2014 following worship. Reports of the church's life in 2013 as well as a budget for 2014 will be presented. Please plan to be there.

Prayer Chain

If you (or a loved one) are in need of prayer, the Prayer Chain of the Presbyterian Women is there for you. You may call the church office at (909) 624-9693 with your prayer request. Please be sure you have the permission of the person for whom you are requesting prayer.